Election of President of the Kottayam Municipal Council.

309. ✻MR. P. C. KURIYAN (*Kottayam I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received any complaints about the way in which any municipal councillor at Kottayam exercised his vote in the last Municipal President's election at Kottayam;

(*b*) the number of Government officers who were members of the council who participated in the President's election;

(*c*) whether any official councillor absented himself from the meeting held for the election of a President; and

(*d*) if so, the reasons for the same?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No.

(*b*) three.

(*c*) Yes; the Medical Officer, Kottayam, was absent.

(*d*) Government are not aware of the reasons for his absence.

MR. P. C. KURIYAN (*Kottayam I*): Are the Government aware that the District Surgeon, Mr. Isac, wilfully absented himself on the day of the election, in order to avoid participating in the election?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government are not aware.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade II*): Is there any rule that official members of municipal councils should vote in the election of Presidents of Municipal Councils even in spite of their unwillingness or inability?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is no rule compelling the official members to vote, nor is there any rule that a particular member should vote for a particular candidate.

Water-supply scheme at Kottayam.

310. ✻MR. P. C. KURIYAN (*Kottayam I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received any representation regarding the urgent necessity for a water-supply scheme at Kottayam;

(*b*) if so, what action they have taken thus far;

(*c*) whether the Water Works Engineer has submitted any report to them regarding the same; and

(*d*) if so, will they be pleased to place a copy of the report on the table?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes. From the President, Municipal Council, Kottayam.

(*b*) The Water Works and Drainage Engineer has been asked to send up a report devising measures for the supply of good drinking water to the town in consultation with the Municipal Council. The Water Works and Drainage Engineer visited the town in Kanni 1112, discussed matters with the Council in an informal meeting and has since been in correspondence with the President answering the latter's questions and asking for necessary information from the President

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[Mr. K. Madhava Kurup.]

bearing on the scope of the scheme the Municipal Council has decided upon.

(c) No. He can submit a report to Government only after he receives the reply of the President whom he has reminded.

(d) Does not arise in view of the answer to (c).

Dust in roads.

311. *MR. P. C. KURIYAN (*Kottayam I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they are aware of the dust problem in the various roads in the State; and

(b) whether they have received any offer from anybody suggesting a contrivance to absorb the dust?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

Fee concession in College classes.

312. * MR. P. C. KURIYAN (*Kottayam I*): Will the Government be pleased to state the communities that receive fee concession in college classes in the State?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Director of Public Instruction*): Students of the Mahomedan community alone are eligible for fee concession in departmental colleges.

Opening of Rural Libraries.

313. * MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether new rural libraries are to be opened from the beginning of the next school year in any of the Vernacular schools;

(b) whether the Director of Public Instruction has received any application for opening a rural library in Pallickal V. P. Girls' School in Mavelikara taluk; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) is in the affirmative, the step taken on the same?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Director of Public Instruction*):

(a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) No.

(c) This does not arise in view of answer to part (b).

The A. V. M. Canal.

314. * MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they contemplate resuming the work of completing the A. V. M. Canal as originally proposed?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. A. ESWARA PILLI (*Kalkulam II*): May I know how far the A. V. M. Canal is navigable now?

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